

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 01418 041651Z

15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 AID-05 FDRE-00

SSO-00 DPW-01 /087 W

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R 041543Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 503

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

JEC PARIS 1705

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1418

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, PDIP, PFOR, VS, UN, VN

SUBJECT: "PRG" LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA: NON-HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 056350

1. BASLER NATIONAL ZEITUNG APRIL 4 PUBLISHED STORY BY ITS GENEVA CORRESPONDENT ON RELIEF EFFORTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, AND INCLUDED QUOTES FROM APPARENT INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF OF PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA, PHAM VAN BA. ACCORDING TO THIS STORY, PHAM HAS REQUESTED AID FOR THE "ONE MILLION REFUGEES AND TWO MILLION CHILDREN" IN PRG-OCCUPIED AREAS FROM "MANY GOVERNMENTS." THAM ADDED THAT IN NAME OF THE PRG RED CROSS HE HAD APPROACHED UNICEF, ICRC, WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN GENEVA, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, AND THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL, LEFTIST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CENTER IN GENEVA.

2. PHAM FURTHER INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS INTERESTED ONLY IF "SELFLESS" ASSISTANCE. HE CRITICIZED THE U.S. "HULLABALOO" ABOUT REFUGEES AND ADDED THAT THE PRG WOULD NOT  
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PAGE 02 BERN 01418 041651Z

STAND BY "WHILE THE RESISTANCE OF SAIGON IS REORGANIZED UNDER

COVER OF INTERNATIONAL (HUMANITARIAN) ASSISTANCE."

3. ON ITS FACE, IT APPEARS FROM ARTICLE THAT PHAM IS EXCEEDING HIS MANDATE WHICH IS CONFINED TO LIAISON WITH UN BODIES. MOREOVER, HIS CRITICISM OF THE US HAS STRONG POLITICAL OVERTONES.

4. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES, WE CAN TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH THE SWISS GOVERNMENT, THOUGH WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE ONLY FOR THE RECORD. IN CURRENT ATMOSPHERE, SWISS AUTHORITIES WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT MAKE FINE DISTINCTION BETWEEN UN AND NON-UN ORGANIZATIONS SO LONG AS PHAM'S ACTIVITIES ARE IN THE GENERAL AREA OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS. SIMILARLY, WE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT GOS WOULD ONCE AGAIN CLOSE ONE EYE TO PHAM'S CRITICISM OF US "IMPERIALISM" SINCE IT WAS IN CONTEXT OF A HUMANITARIAN ISSUE. IF DEPARTMENT DECIDES THAT WE SHOULD REGISTER OUR CONCERN TO GOS ON THIS MATTER, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR DEMARCHE SHOULD BE CONFINED TO SECOND POINT. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, MOREOVER, THAT MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF GETTING AT SWISS ON THIS ISSUE IS FOR UNSYG TO TAKE A STRONG STAND ON THE MATTER.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, REFUGEE RELIEF, MEETINGS  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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